Review the Dewey Decimal System:

* Activity: Give each table a plastic tray full of 'toys.'
  + Ask each table to sort the items in their tray.
  + Ask each table to explain how they sorted their items. Can they assign categories to their groupings?
  + Tell them the story of how Melvil Dewey - for whom the Dewey Decimal Classification System was named - would go to the library at Amherst College (in the 1870s)and be really frustrated that it wasn't organized and he couldn't find anything! So he went to the librarians and asked if he could organize the library and they said, "Sure!"

So he sorted all the books into 10 big piles and gave them each a number from 000 (zero hundred) to 900, then decided he could sort each pile into 10 smaller piles and added a number in the tens place for each of those piles. He kept sorting into smaller and smaller piles until he had a system that put all the things that were alike or similar in the same pile.

Melville's system, then, has the 10 main **classes**, 000 - 900, each divided into 10 **divisions**. Each of those divisions is then divided into 10 **sections**. (Write the bold words on the white board as you explain.) And show this example:

Class: 500 (Math and Science)

Division: 590 (Animals)

Section: 599 (Mammals)

* Pass out / project a copy of the DDCS handout (subpage)

of the Main Classes / Divisions of the Dewey Decimal Classification System (DDCS) Compare their toy groupings to the DDCS.

* **Into which Class / Division might their groupings be listed?**
* **Can students re-group their toys into the DDCS?**
* **What other keywords would help them?**
* Collect all toys / trays.

Extension:

The Great Dewey Hunt / Toni Buzzeo (Upstart Books, 2009; ISBN: 978-1-60213-041-8 2009)

Mrs. Skorupski is back, and this time, she’s mixing it up with a Dewey Decimal treasure hunt! Frieda and her second-grade classmates compete against other teams to see who can find the most Dewey objects and corresponding books in the time allotted. All Frieda can think about is winning, but readers will be treated to an exciting tour of the Dewey numbers and sections along the way. And Mrs. Skorupski doesn’t disappoint — this time she’s decked out in rhinestone Dewey numbers from her earrings to her shoes! The included Dewey library lessons booklet helps reinforce the concepts covered in the book.

* When you’re ready to introduce the 2nd graders to the DDCS, re-create the Great Dewey Hunt!